CLAIMS

1. A method for managing electronic mail messages, the method comprising:

   receiving an electronic mail message addressed to a particular user;

   retrieving an approved subject line phrase corresponding to the particular user;

   parsing the electronic mail message and determining whether a subject line in the

   electronic mail message includes the approved subject line phrase;

   accommodating delivery of the electronic mail message to the particular user where it is

   determined that the approved subject line phrase is included in the electronic mail

   message subject line.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

   determining a sender for the electronic mail message; and

   adding the sender to an approved sender list upon determining that the approved subject

   line phrase is included in the electronic mail message line.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the particular user inputs the approved subject line

phrase pursuant to an e-mail filter settings configuration, and passes the approved subject line

phrase to parties from whom the particular user intends to accept e-mail messages.

4. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

   determining that the approved subject line phrase is absent from the electronic mail

   message subject line; and

   applying additional e-mail filtering criteria where it is determined that the approved

   subject line phrase is absent from the electronic mail message subject line.

5. The method of claim 4, further comprising:

    designating the electronic mail message to a delete category where the approved subject line phrase is absent from the electronic mail message and the additional e-mail filtering criteria indicate the electronic mail message to be clearly identified as undesired.

6. The method of claim 4, further comprising:

    designating the electronic mail message to a spam holding category where the approved subject line phrase is absent from the electronic mail message and the additional e-mail filtering criteria do not indicate the electronic mail message to be clearly identified as undesired and do not indicate the electronic mail message to be clearly identified as desired.

7. A computer program product, for managing electronic mail messages, the computer program product stored on a computer readable medium and adapted to perform operations comprising:

    receiving an electronic mail message addressed to a particular user;

    retrieving an approved subject line phrase corresponding to the particular user;

    parsing the electronic mail message and determining whether a subject line in the electronic mail message includes the approved subject line phrase;

    accommodating delivery of the electronic mail message to the particular user where it is determined that the approved subject line phrase is included in the electronic mail message subject line.

8. The computer program product of claim 7, wherein the operations further comprise:

determining a sender for the electronic mail message; and

adding the sender to an approved sender list upon determining that the approved subject

line phrase is included in the electronic mail message line.

9.   The computer program product of claim 7, wherein the particular user inputs the

approved subject line phrase pursuant to an e-mail filter settings configuration, and passes the

approved subject line phrase to parties from whom the particular user intends to accept e-mail

messages.

10.   The computer program product of claim 7, wherein the operations further comprise:

determining that the approved subject line phrase is absent from the electronic mail

message subject line; and

applying additional e-mail filtering criteria where it is determined that the approved

subject line phrase is absent from the electronic mail message subject line.

11.   The computer program product of claim 10, wherein the operations further comprise:

designating the electronic mail message to a delete category where the approved subject

line phrase is absent from the electronic mail message and the additional e-mail

filtering criteria indicate the electronic mail message to be clearly identified as

undesired.

12.   The computer program product of claim 10, wherein the operations further comprise:

designating the electronic mail message to a spam holding category where the approved

subject line phrase is absent from the electronic mail message and the additional

e-mail filtering criteria do not indicate the electronic mail message to be clearly

identified as undesired and do not indicate the electronic mail message to be

clearly identified as desired.

13.   An e-mail management system for managing electronic mail messages, the system comprising:

> a mail filtering module, which receives an electronic mail message addressed to a
>
> particular user; and
>
> an approved subject phrase module, in communication with the mail filtering module,
>
> which retrieves an approved subject line phrase corresponding to the particular
>
> user; parses the electronic mail message and determines whether a subject line in
>
> the electronic mail message includes the approved subject line phrase; and
>
> communicates with the mail filtering module to accommodate delivery of the
>
> electronic mail message to the particular user where it is determined that the
>
> approved subject line phrase is included in the electronic mail message subject
>
> line.

14.   The system of claim 13, wherein the approved subject phrase module also determines a sender for the electronic mail message, and communicates with a remaining filter options module to add the sender to an approved sender list upon determining that the approved subject line phrase is included in the electronic mail message line.

15.   A method for restoring electronic mail messages to a mail server, the method comprising:

> determining that an electronic mail message addressed to a particular user is resident at a
>
> mail server;
>
> receiving the electronic mail message at a mail client from the mail server pursuant to an
>
> electronic mail downloading procedure that entails deleting the electronic mail

message from the mail server;

receiving a request to restore the electronic mail message on the mail server following a

completion of the electronic mail downloading procedure; and

restoring the electronic mail message as though it had not been downloaded from the mail

server in response to receiving the request.

16. The method of claim 15, further comprising:

determining whether the electronic mail message is an appropriate candidate for

restoration prior to restoring the electronic mail message.

17. The method of claim 15, wherein restoring the electronic mail message comprises:

creating a temporary message file that includes a re-written header and an original

message body corresponding to the electronic mail message, wherein the re-

written header indicates that the message is being sent from the original sender of

the electronic mail message and to the particular user; and

transmitting the temporary message file to the mail server.

18. A computer program product for restoring electronic mail messages to a mail server, the

computer program product stored on a computer readable medium and adapted to perform

operations comprising:

determining that an electronic mail message addressed to a particular user is resident at a

mail server;

receiving the electronic mail message at a mail client from the mail server pursuant to an

electronic mail downloading procedure that entails deleting the electronic mail

message from the mail server;

receiving a request to restore the electronic mail message on the mail server following a

completion of the electronic mail downloading procedure; and

restoring the electronic mail message as though it had not been downloaded from the mail

server in response to receiving the request.

19.   The computer program product of claim 18, wherein the operations further comprise:

determining whether the electronic mail message is an appropriate candidate for

restoration prior to restoring the electronic mail message.

20.   The computer program product of claim 18, wherein restoring the electronic mail

message comprises:

creating a temporary message file that includes a re-written header and an original

message body corresponding to the electronic mail message, wherein the re-

written header indicates that the message is being sent from the original sender of

the electronic mail message and to the particular user; and

transmitting the temporary message file to the mail server.

21.   A system for restoring electronic mail messages to a mail server, the system comprising:

a e-mail management module, which determines that an electronic mail message

addressed to a particular user is resident at a mail server, and receives the

electronic mail message at a mail client from the mail server pursuant to an

electronic mail downloading procedure that entails deleting the electronic mail

message from the mail server; and

an e-mail restoration module, in communication with the e-mail management module,

which receives a request to restore the electronic mail message on the mail server

following a completion of the electronic mail downloading procedure, and

restores the electronic mail message as though it had not been downloaded from

the mail server in response to receiving the request.

22.   The system of claim 21, wherein the e-mail restoration manager determines whether the

electronic mail message is an appropriate candidate for restoration prior to restoring the

electronic mail message.

23.   The system of claim 21, wherein the e-mail restoration manager restores the electronic

mail message by creating a temporary message file that includes a re-written header and an

original message body corresponding to the electronic mail message, wherein the re-written

header indicates that the message is being sent from the original sender of the electronic mail

message and to the particular user, and transmitting the temporary message file to the mail

server.